

§ 458.77

(j) Continue, at his discretion, the hearing from day-to-day, or adjourn it to a later date or to a different place, by announcement thereof at the hearing or by other appropriate notice;

(k) Take official notice of any material fact not appearing in evidence in the record, which is among the traditional matters of judicial notice and also concerning which the Department of Labor by reason of its functions is presumed to be expert: *Provided*, That the parties shall be given adequate notice, at the hearing or by reference in the Administrative Law Judge's recommended decision and order, of the matters so noticed, and shall be given adequate opportunity to show the contrary;

(l) Correct or approve proposed corrections of the official transcript when deemed necessary; and

(m) Take any other action necessary under the foregoing and not prohibited by these regulations.

[45 FR 15158, Mar. 7, 1980. Redesignated and amended at 50 FR 31311, 31313, Aug. 1, 1985]

§ 458.77 Rights of parties.

Any party shall have the right to appear at such hearing in person, by counsel, or by other representative, to examine and cross-examine witnesses, and to introduce into the record documentary or other relevant evidence, except that the participation of any party shall be limited to the extent prescribed by the Administrative Law Judge. Two (2) copies of documentary evidence shall be submitted and a copy furnished to each of the other parties. Stipulations of fact may be introduced in evidence with respect to any issue.

§ 458.78 Rules of evidence.

The technical rules of evidence do not apply. Any evidence may be received, except that an Administrative Law Judge may exclude any evidence or offer of proof which is immaterial, irrelevant, unduly repetitious, or customarily privileged. Every party shall have a right to present his case by oral and documentary evidence and to submit rebuttal evidence.

§ 458.79 Burden of proof.

In a hearing concerning an alleged violation of § 458.2 (Bill of rights of

29 CFR Ch. IV (7-1-00 Edition)

members of labor organizations) or § 458.37 (Prohibition of certain discipline), the complainant shall have the burden of proving the allegations of the complaint by a preponderance of the evidence. In a hearing concerning an alleged violation of §§ 458.26-458.30, the Chief, DOE shall have the burden of proving the allegations of the complaint by a preponderance of the evidence. In a hearing concerning an alleged violation of other standards of conduct matters, the District Director shall have the burden of proving the allegations of the complaint by a preponderance of the evidence.

[45 FR 15158, Mar. 7, 1980. Redesignated and amended at 50 FR 31311, 31313, Aug. 1, 1985; 59 FR 15117, Mar. 31, 1994; 62 FR 6094, Feb. 10, 1997]

§ 458.80 Unavailability of Administrative Law Judges.

In the event the Administrative Law Judge designated to conduct the hearing becomes unavailable, the Chief Administrative Law Judge shall designate another Administrative Law Judge for the purpose of further hearing or issuance of a recommended decision and order on the record as made, or both.

§ 458.81 Objection to conduct of hearing.

(a) Any objection with respect to the conduct of the hearing, including any objection to the introduction of evidence, may be stated orally or in writing accompanied by a short statement of the grounds for such objection and included in the record. No such objection shall be deemed waived by further participation in the hearing. Such objection shall not stay the conduct of the hearing.

(b) Automatic exceptions will be allowed to all adverse rulings. Rulings by the Administrative Law Judge shall not be appealed prior to the transfer of the case to the Assistant Secretary, but shall be considered by the Assistant Secretary only upon the filing of exceptions to the Administrative Law Judge's recommended decision and order in accordance with § 458.88.